V-,21N N41

THIRD DAY

Friday, 3rd October 1941.

The House reassembled at the Jagan Mohan Palace Pavilion at 12 of the clock on Friday, 3rd October 1941, Mr. President (*Rajamantrapravina* N. Madhava Rau, B.A., B.L., Dewan) in the Chair.

Conduct of Business in the House.

Before Questions and Answers were taken up, **Mr. S. N. M RAZVI** brought to the notice of the President that according to the programme, that was the day for Government Business and enquired whether the Government would adhere to the programme and take up Representations from the following day or whether they proposed to go on with Government Business until all the Bills were disposed of.

The PRESIDENT invited other intending speakers, if any, to express their views on the subject of the programme of business.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY pointed out that the time allotted for Government Business was only 2½ days. But there were as many as 22 Bills for discussion and so far not even two of them had been disposed of. For discussing all the Bills before the House, at least two more days would be required, and if the time for this item of business was extended, there would not be sufficient time left for Representations, Resolutions, etc. At the last session of the House itself he had requested that at least 14 days should be allotted for the Dasara Session. That was the recommendation made by the Reform Committee also, but the Government had reduced the period to 10 days.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that it was only the minimum period that had been reduced.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY said that if the Government were agreeable to allot some more days, members would be only too glad as far as the present session was concerned, but questions to which members atta hed requested that the question of extending it should be considered sympathetically.

The PRESIDENT explained that three days had been allotted for the discussion of Bills on the ground that many of them were of a non-controversial nature. In fact, there were also a few other measures ready for being placed before the House, but as they were not urgent, they had been kept by for the next session. Some of the Bills that had been placed before the House were really urgent ones and Government were prepared to extend the period of the session so that if possible all of them might be discussed. As regards Representations too, his anxiety was to see that all of them were disposed of at the present session. With regard to Resolutions, however, if the House were agreeable and all the members extended necessary co-operation, only the more important of them could be taken up for consideration.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI thanked the President for his statement and assured him that members of his party were prepared to extend the heartiest co-operation to the Government in the conduct of business.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK also thanked the President for the very sympathetic statement made by him. He added that if only members made up their minds not to repeat the arguments already advanced by others, much more time would be available for transacting business.

Mr. K. HANUMANTHIAH brought to notice that in addition to questions not being answered in serial order, answers were not being furnished in respect of

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the greatest importance, pertaining as they did to principles and policies. This had caused not a little dissatisfaction to the members. He hoped that at least in future, the Government would see that as far as possible no room was given for such a feeling on the part of members.

Secondly, the Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments were in the habit of asking for 'Notice' even in respect of questions which could be answered very easily. The members were fully aware of the difficulties of the Government in answering questions requiring detailed scrutiny or elaborate references, and therefore refrained from asking such questions. But to require 'Notice' even in respect of straight and simple questions with a view to shirk responsibility, would be very wrong indeed. He therefore appealed to the President to safe-guard the privileges of the Assembly by calling upon the officers of Government to furnish answers to each and every question as far as possible.

The speaker was glad that, on many occasions in the past, the House had been referred to the desirability of conforming to parliamentary practice. Following that advice, he would take this opportunity of suggesting that, to the extent practicable, the concerned Ministers should give replies to all the questions instead of Heads of Departments and Secretaries to Government. That would give greater satisfaction to members. The Leader of the Congress Party had already made this suggestion at the previous session of the Assembly and the speaker hoped that effect would be given to it at least in future.

The MINISTER for EDUCATION (Mr. J. Mahomed Imam) thought that so long as the replies themselves were furnished to the satisfaction of the members, it did not matter whether the Minister furnished them or a Secretary to Government or the Head of a Department.

Mr. K. HANUMANTHIAH thought that His Highness the Maharaja had been pleased to appoint Ministers, because he must have felt that they were in a position to give replies with greater precision and confidence than a Secretary to Government or the Head of a Department.

The PRESIDENT observed that he was very glad to find reference being made to parliamentary practice in connection with the conduct of business in the House. He would be very pleased if members of the House would similarly conform to parliamentary practice by resuming their seats whenever the President or any member was on his legs.

With regard to the point that Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments seemed to ask for 'Notice' unnecessarily in answering supplementary questions, **the PRESIDENT** assured the House that they were not doing so with any intention of withholding information even when it was readily available. On the other hand, whatever information was available was being furnished freely to the House. If, however, a member asked, for instance, for elaborate details pertaining to an event which might have happened some years ago, it would not be possible for an officer to give information about that off-hand. It might be possible to hazard an answer even in such a case, but it would serve no purpose. The member putting the question might have taken the trouble of collecting necessary particulars relating to that incident and on the basis thereof, he could immediately point out that the reply of Government was not accurate or complete. It was necessary, in giving replies, that Government officers should see that accurate information was collected and furnished. That was the reason why they required notice in certain cases.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY, interrupting, remarked that the officers might be tempted to ask for 'Notice' whenever inconvenient questions were put.

The PRESIDENT replied that that was not the case.

Another point to be borne in mind in connection with supplementary questions was that these questions were

meant only for eliciting further information and not for cross-examining officers of Government on the floor of the House. If this point were borne in mind in asking questions, all available information would be furnished and any details which might be required but are not readily available would be obtained and furnished.

One of the suggestions made by Mr. Hanumanthiah was that the Ministers themselves should answer all questions. The procedure in the past was for only the Secretaries to Government and the Heads of Departments to answer all of them, though in the case of Representations, the Dewan or the Member of Council concerned gave the final replies. But the suggestion made by the member would be noted and the Ministers would have no objection to give replies themsleves as far as possible.

With reference to the point that answers to questions were not being furnished in serial order, **The PRESIDENT** observed that there was reason for it. Some of the questions could be answered with the information readily available in the Secretariat itself. But in respect of others—and they formed a large number—information would have to be obtained from the Heads of Departments concerned, who in their turn would have to call for it from their subordinate officers and, in some cases, from the taluks. That would necessarily take time. In such cases, there would be delay in furnishing answers which could not be avoided in the circumstances.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY said that questions were being sent to the office fifty days before the commencement of the session. So, even if information was to be collected from various places and officers, sufficient time would be available. If therefore, the Government made efforts to answer all the questions in an order, it would be a source of immense satisfaction to the members.

The PRESIDENT said that was all right as a general proposition. But if a question called for elaborate statistics pertaining to a long series of years, it would naturally take time for the statistics to be compiled. It could not be answered off-hand consistently with Government's responsibility. If incomplete answers were furnished, they could not be of any practical use to the members themselves. Also, in many cases, it was difficult for Government to know why a particular question had been put in a particular way. If at least the object underlying a question could be ascertained, useful information might be furnished to the satisfaction of the members concerned.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI suggested that answers to questions which could not be furnished during a particular session be sent to them by post as soon as possible after the close of the session. That would obviate the necessity of the same questions being put at successive sessions.

The PRESIDENT observed that answers to all questions were being included in the printed proceedings. He suggested that if a sort of a Study Circle were formed by the members, they could usefully discuss things in advance and the business of the House could also be gone through more expeditiously and satisfactorily.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—*contd.*

Transfers of Police Officers Once in Three Years.

Q.—115. **Mr. BHOGAPPA** (Gundlupet—Rural).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) how many years once are transfers of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors effected in the Police Department ;

(*b*) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors are not transferred even though they remain in the same place for five or six years ;

(*c*) whether the District Police Officers have been retained for many years in the same place ; and if so, in what districts ?